Latvia
Lithuania

Latvia. As in Estonia, the co-operative system of Latvia had been somewhat highly developed before the War. However, the disorganization caused by the War and the inflation made a fresh start necessary. There was a rapid increase of consumers' co-operatives in 1920 and 1921, followed rather later by a similar increase in co-operative credit societies and co-operative dairies. On the whole, development was rather uneven, owing to the enormous demand for agricultural machinery, seed, and plant resulting from the devastation of the War; but a large group was soon evolved which was known as *Konsums*. This group lent money on the security of land, supplied farmers on credit with agricultural and dairy machinery and artificial manure, and was at one period commissioned by the Government to buy grain and flax for export purposes. Apart from [234] the expansion of *Konsums* during these years the most notable feature was the growth of co-operative dairies, which by the end of the period numbered more than 400, with a total membership of more than 20,000.

Lithuania. The growth of co-operation in Lithuania was rather greater, and the field covered rather wider, than in the other two countries. This may perhaps be explained by the almost entire absence of any financial organization in Lithuania immediately after the War, which was not the case in the other countries. The growth of co-operation was very rapid, and by the end of 1927 there were no less than 2,089 co-operatives in existence, 640 of which were consumers' societies, 473 dairy co-operatives, and 587 credit co-operatives. The export of Lithuanian butter on the scale achieved during this period would probably never have become possible without the assistance of the *Pienocentras* co-operative organization. The same may be said of the export of bacon and live stock which was effected through *Maistas*, an organization controlled by the agricultural co-operatives' union (*Lietukis*) and the Farmers' Union, both agricultural co-operatives which, in addition to fostering pig-breeding, supply the farmers with fertilizers, seeds, and agricultural machinery.

2. Agriculture

(i) *Cereals.*

The area under cereals was comparatively small except in Lithuania. During 1926–30 the average annual percentage of the total area under rye, oats, barley, wheat, and meslin was 10·5 for Estonia, 12·9 for Latvia, and 23·0 for Lithuania, but a proportionately larger area of Estonia and Latvia is covered by forest. However, both Estonia and Latvia were regularly compelled to import large quantities of grain during the period, chiefly rye, while Lithuania normally had a surplus for export.

1: Anonymous U-4 (no date)1938 RB1 Baltic States RB

243
311 The chief developments during the period can be seen from the following table:

TABLE 16. *Agricultural Development*

	Area under crop annual average ('000 ha.)			*Production annual average ('000 quintals)*			*Yield per ha. annual average (quintals per ha.)*		
	1909–13	*1921–5*	*1926–30*	*1909–13*	*1921–5*	*1926–30*	*1909–13*	*1921–5*	*1926–30*
Rye									
Estonia	169	159	142	1,852	1,639	1,594	11·0	10·3	12·1
Latvia	351*	252	254	3,254*	2,422	2,471	9·3*	9·6	9·7
Lithuania	552*	557†	471	4,967*	5,948†	5,184	9·0*	10·7†	10·8
Oats									
Estonia	135	155	144	1,234	1,380	1,273	9·2	8·9	8·6
Latvia	306*	300	297	2,790*	2,642	2,561	9·1*	8·8	8·0
Lithuania	317*	332†	335	2,659*	3,318†	3,370	8·4*	10·0†	9·4
Barley									
Estonia	132	123	114	1,348	1,190	1,139	10·2	9·7	9·9
Latvia	191*	167	176	1,728*	1,519	1,570	9·1*	9·1	8·8
Lithuania	183*	187†	201	1,588*	2,150†	2,113	8·7*	11·5†	10·7
Wheat									
Estonia	..	19	30	..	182	321	..	9·6	10·7
Latvia	33	36	61	384	388	731	11·6*	10·8	11·8
Lithuania	82	90†	163	853†	1,019†	1,859	10·4*	11·3†	11·9

* Not including the whole territory. † 1922–5.

As in the pre-War period, rye and oats continued to be the chief crops. The principal developments after the War were firstly an increase in the acreage under wheat and in the gross production of that crop. This was largely because these countries had obtained their wheat before the War from the other provinces of Russia, and were now forced to grow their own. The other tendency to be noted is a general decline from the pre-War figures in the yield and production of rye, oats, and barley, except in Lithuania. The explanation lies in the dislocation caused by the redistribution of land, for the new methods introduced had hardly begun to affect production by 1930, and during this period the agricultural organization of Estonia and Latvia was in general less efficient than before the War, when the large landowners were in possession. Moreover, during the years 1926–30 there were several exceptionally bad harvests. In Lithuania, on the other hand, there was a remarkable growth of efficiency as compared with the pre-War period, when the land tended to be neglected by the big owners, and the small-holders were ignorant of modern methods.[1] There was thus a considerable increase in yield and production.

[1] e.g. the rotation of crops was rarely practised before the War. See Dr. O. Lehmich, *Währung und Wirtschaft in Polen, Litauen, Lettland und Estland*, Berlin, 1923, p. 186.

3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5
Baltic Countries RB2

TABLE 4

LAND USE IN THE BALTIC STATES

TYPE OF LAND	LITHUANIA		LATVIA		ESTONIA	
	Thousands of Acres	*Per-cent*	*Thousands of Acres*	*Per-cent*	*Thousands of Acres*	*Per-cent*
Arable land	6,667	48.5	5,243	32.2	2,671	23.9
Meadows and pasture land	2,817	20.5	4,094	25.2	4,305	38.5
Forests	2,599	18.9	4,317	26.6	2,315	20.7
All others	1,673	12.1	2,602	16.0	1,885	16.9
TOTAL	13,756 [a]	100.0	16,256 [b]	100.0	11,176 [c]	100.0

[a] 5,567,000 hectares.
[b] 6,579,000 hectares.
[c] 4,523,000 hectares.

To enable the reader to gain a better understanding and judgment of statistics about the Baltic states given elsewhere in this work, some comparative figures are given in Table 5 regarding the territory and population of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

Lithuania is lacking in natural resources that are necessary to a well-rounded economic life. One of the country's most serious deficiencies is the absence of its own fuel supply. There is no coal in Lithuania. In 1923 Lithuania imported 5,367,100 litas worth of coal and liquid fuel. By 1928 this figure had almost tripled, imports that year amounting to 14,905,700 litas. The only form of domestic fuel is peat, of which there are 162,221 acres (65,650 hectares). The possibilities of peat have not yet been fully explored, but if peat were made to supplant coal, it is estimated that Lithuania would possess fuel reserves for 132 years.[20]

[20] A. K. Kubilius, *Lietuvos Ukio Perspektyvos* (The Prospects of the National Economy of Lithuania), Kaunas, 1930, p. 190.